

Today's News - Wednesday, August 6, 2014

- Jacobs pens one of the most thoughtful pieces we've read about Ground Zero, the 9/11 Museum that "does what it's supposed to do, diligently and surprisingly well," and the transit hub that "might turn out to be the transcendent space that the WTC badly needs" - it "has the audacity to look like New York."
- Cuozzo, on the other hand, minces no words about what he thinks of the transit hub rising from Ground Zero, and "the embarrassing ugliness of this \$4 billion boondoggle. What happened to the 'bird in flight' we were promised?" (it's called value engineering).
- Pogrebin reports on the new Congressional report re: Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial - is it really "just another Washington boondoggle"?
- Pedersen, on the other hand, takes issue with "a few glaring omissions in Pogrebin's story," but "that this whole episode sadly mirrors the larger paralysis gripping Washington should come as no surprise."
- Hockenberry waxes practically poetic about "a resurgent street culture emerging" in NYC, "using spaces that would have been graffiti-covered concrete emptiness just a few years ago - people have found a Moses workaround."
- Steuteville parses a Pew study and "why 'place' is the new American dream" in both cities and suburbs.
- Wyeth cheers "growth and change" in Melbourne as "both a beautiful and inevitable thing," but "the conversation needs to change away from selfish and counter-productive protectionist sentiments, and towards making the city's growth inclusive."
- In China, "the urbanizing population is starting to demand a better quality of dwelling" that "is stirring even the Chinese housing dragon," and for a new generation of designers, a chance to have "a greater say in the country's changing urban face."
- Capps pens a "requiem for a nightmare" that is the FBI HQ building, "maybe the most despised structure in Washington, D.C. As Brutalism edges toward extinction, cities should take stock" (and whatever replaces it "will be regular, orderly, safe, and worse").
- Farago offers a small, international round-up of "buildings we love to hate" (including the FBI HQ).
- Lubell reports that Neutra and Alexander's buildings and Eckbo's landscape at Orange Coast College are under threat as well.
- Saitta says the Aspen Ideas Festival doesn't offer a lot of compelling ideas for improving city life, "but it has its moments."
- O'Toole files two reports from UIA2014 in Durban: it gets a bit better after the "congress opened in lackluster fashion": Architecture is a "scarce skill monopolized by whites" + "Presentations on earthquake readiness and slum settlement solutions highlighted contributions to human dignity."
- An impressive shortlist in line for the LEAF Awards 2014.
- Call for entries: Springburn Winter Gardens open ideas competition to bring the gardens back to full use (deadline looms!) + Sinclair launches the Dead Prize, "a sort of Razzies for architecture" (or Carbuncle Cup with an enviro bent).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Delirious World Trade: Despite the opening of the September 11 Museum, Ground Zero remains a site conflicted in its ambitions and execution...but in truth, the museum does what it's supposed to do, diligently and surprisingly well, with a level of detail so conscientious that it's overwhelming...Calatrava's station might turn out to be the transcendent space that the WTC badly needs...has the audacity to look like New York. By Karrie Jacobs -- Daniel Libeskind; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Fumihiro Maki; Michael Arad; Snøhetta; Davis Brody Bond; Santiago Calatrava [images]- Architect Magazine

New York's \$4B shrine to government waste and idiocy: Here comes The Calatrasaurus..."World Trade Center Transportation Hub," a cyclopean PATH terminal onto which scary "wings" have been grafted like plastic mutant terrors of 1950s sci-fi movies....What happened to the "bird in flight" we were promised?...has bird-and-switched into a sharp-edged stegosaurus shorn of beauty by "value engineering" ... By Steve Cuozzo -- Santiago Calatrava- New York Post

Eisenhower Memorial Plan Called a 'Five-Star Folly': Congressional Report Faults Memorial Delays: ...congressional critics have come forward...to depict it as just another Washington boondoggle...Eisenhower Memorial Commission...called the July 25 report unfair and inaccurate... By Robin Pogrebin -- Frank Gehry; Sam Roche/Right by Ike; Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society- New York Times

New Report Takes Aim at Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: The architect's plans...received yet another blow...There is no question that the design is imperilled...But I thought there were a few glaring omissions in Pogrebin's story...That this whole episode sadly mirrors the larger paralysis gripping Washington should come as no surprise... By Martin C. Pedersen-Metropolis Magazine

Playing in Traffic: New Yorkers have found numerous ways to ignore the highway-centered city of Robert Moses: ...a resurgent street culture emerging...using spaces that would have been graffiti-covered concrete emptiness just a few years ago...depict a population ignoring the automobile city, not being defeated by it...people have found a Moses workaround. By John Hockenberry- Metropolis Magazine

Why 'place' is the new American dream: A Pew study shows the country now evenly split between two visions of the good life...Compared to the last half of the 20th Century, which was a disaster for cities, downtowns and urban neighborhoods will do better in the 21st Century. Nevertheless, many of the best opportunities for place-based development will arise in the suburbs. By Robert Steuteville- Better! Cities & Towns (formerly New Urban News)

Progressive narrative on city centre apartments falls short: It is a great positive that Melburnians are interested and engaged in the city's development...[but] is making many people uncomfortable, and as a result some starkly selfish perspectives...The growth and change of Melbourne is both a beautiful and inevitable thing...The conversation needs to change away from selfish and counter-productive protectionist sentiments, and towards making the city's growth inclusive. By Grant Wyeth- Crikey (Australia)

Architects fight China's bad unit plague: Chinese people are fed up with bad apartments...the urbanising population is starting to demand a better quality of dwelling..."People are looking for a city with humanity"...The debate about good design and its role in a city...is stirring even the Chinese housing dragon...a new generation of designers...are gaining a name for themselves...and with it a greater say in the country's changing urban face. -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects- Australian Financial Review

Requiem for a Nightmare: The fate of the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Building—maybe the most despised structure in Washington, D.C.—is virtually sealed. As Brutalism edges toward extinction, cities should take stock...Not only could it still potentially be put to good use, but whatever replaces the FBI Building will be regular, orderly, safe, and worse. By Kriston Capps [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Architecture's epic fails: buildings we love to hate: The FBI just announced it will move to a new facility, abandoning the hulking J Edgar Hoover Building in Washington. Here are six other such 'unsuccessful buildings.' By Jason Farago -- Charles F. Murphy and Associates; Paul Rudolph; Edward Durell Stone; Frank Gehry; Richard Seifert; Santiago Calatrava-Guardian (UK)

Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander's Orange Coast College buildings facing threat: If the plan passes the school could tear down the duo's classrooms, library, business education building, and science wing, as well as extensive landscaping

by...Garrett Eckbo...planning committee has recommended a combination of preservation, reuse, and teardown...acknowledged the buildings' legacy, but said the school needs to balance that with future growth. By Sam Lubell [images, links] - The Architect's Newspaper

Does the Aspen Ideas Festival Offer Compelling Ideas for Improving City Life? ...didn't offer much that's particularly compelling, but it has its moments: ...affordable housing is a recommendation that's more compelling than any offered by the Leading Voices...However, embedded in the video are a few excellent observations that might generate more creative thought... By Dean Saitta -- Geoffrey West; Alissa Walker; Jeff Speck; Jennifer Pahlka; M. Sanjayan- PLANetizen

Architecture: A scarce skill monopolised by whites: The alarm has been raised at UIA2014 congress over stats revealing that only 24% of built environment professionals are black and 9% female: ...congress opened in lacklustre fashion...in Durban. By Sean O'Toole – Hilton Judin; Nina Saunders; Toyo Ito; David Southwood; Nic Coetzer; Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity- Mail & Guardian (South Africa)

Architectural solutions to slums and earthquakes: Presentations on earthquake readiness and slum settlement solutions at the 25th world congress of the International Union of Architects (UIA) have highlighted contributions to human dignity. By Sean O'Toole – Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; Diébédo Francis Kéré; Andrew Makin; Rahul Mehrotra; Shigeru Ban; Toyo Ito- Mail & Guardian (South Africa)

LEAF Awards 2014 Shortlist Announced -- Tabanlioglu Architects Melkan Gursel & Murat Tabanlioglu; CORNELIUS + VÖGE; Mount Fuji Architects Studio; PTW Architects; Makoto Yamaguchi Design; studio mk27; Aedas; Hopkins Architects; CoCo Architecture; Henning Larsen Architects; O'Donnell + Tuomey; etc.- Arena International

Call for entries: "An intervention at Springburn Winter Gardens" open ideas competition to be a community led enterprise, bringing the Winter Gardens back to full use; registration deadline: August 15 (submissions due August 21)- Glasgow Institute of Architects

Call for entries: Cameron Sinclair Launches New Prize For Crappy Architecture: Dead Prize, a sort of Razzies for architecture, will call out designs that cause environmental harm; deadline: November 1 carbunkle Cup- Fast Company

ANN Feature: Sociologists Rather than Signature Architects: Q&A with Behnisch Architekten Partners: They pull no punches in discussing the challenges of urban planning, the differences working in Europe and the U.S., architects' social and ethical responsibilities, and what their dream projects would be. By Alexander Gutzmer- ArchNewsNow.com

10 Architectural Highlights in New York: The city sports some of modern civilization's crowning structural achievements... -- Gehry Partners; Snøhetta; Morphosis; SANAA; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Foster + Partners; Arquitectonica; OMA; Renzo Piano

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2014 ArchNewsNow.com